

REMARKS

Following entry of these amendments Claims 26, 32, 34, 36-40 and 43 will be pending in the present application. Claims 40 and 43 are amended to correct a typographical error. Applicants are herewith canceling Claims 27-31, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications to pursue claims directed to the subject matter contained in Claims 27-31. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found generally throughout the specification and that the amendments do not introduce new matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of these foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

THE REJECTION BASED ON OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 27, 28 and 30 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims in co-pending allowed application Serial No. 10/918,627. Applicants have herein canceled Claims 27, 28, and 30 of the present application; therefore, the provisional rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is moot. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the provisional rejection based on co-pending application Serial No. 10/918,627 be withdrawn.

Claims 26-32, 34, 36-40 and 43 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims in co-pending application Serial No. 10/379,991. Claims 26-32, 34, 36-40 and 43 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims of co-pending application Serial No. 10/789,471.

With respect to co-pending application Serial Nos. 10/379,991 and 10/789,471, since these rejections are provisional rejections and since it does not appear that the claims in those applications will mature into a patent prior to the claims of the present application, it is submitted that no response to these provisional rejections is required. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the provisional rejections based on co-pending application Serial Nos. 10/379,991 and 10/789,471 be withdrawn.

THE REJECTION BASED ON 35 U.S.C. §103

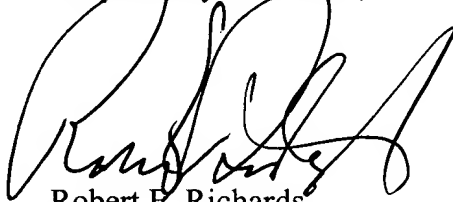
Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over *Seegers et al.* In order to advance the prosecution of this application, applicants are herewith canceling Claims 27 and 28. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications to pursue claims directed to the subject matter contained in Claims 27 and 28.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, applicants submit that the claims define patentable subject matter over the prior art and are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested and such action is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any informality remains in the application that may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, or there are any other issues which can be resolved by telephone interview, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (404) 745-2408 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert E. Richards', is written over the typed name.

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